Gazette shall be eligible for tax exemption under section 10(150) (vii) of the Income Tax-Act.

10. External Monitoring

With six months of the close of every financial year, the Escrow account and the Project account will be audited by a firm of Chartered Accounts appointed by the concerned State Urban Development Departments from a penal of Chartered Accounts approved by the C&AG and the fully complied audit report submitted to the MOUD&PA.

11. Listing of Bonds

The Tax-Free bonds may be listed on the Stock Exchange.

News-item captioned "Burn Standard on Sick Bay'*

*15. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Burn Standard on sick bay", which appeared in the Hindustan Times (Kolkata), dated the 19th June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government reaction to the allegations, as reported;

(c) whether wagon orders remain unexecuted because of lack of inputs; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to expedite the supply of inputs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Having become sick, Burn Standard & Company Limited (BSCL) was referred to BIFR in November, 1994. BIFR sanctioned a rehabilitation scheme in April, 1999. The Government of India issued necessary sanctions in May, 1999. This included cash support of Rs. 1.75 crore (against Rs. 158.30 crore envisaged in the BIFR scheme) and financial restructuring of Rs. 465.36 crore. The

employees strength in the Howrah Works, was to be brought down to 2995. The present strength there is 3105. The Government also gave guarantee for Rs. 55.50 crore towards working capital advances. The rehabilitation scheme has been implemented. Out of a total capital investment of Rs. 13.31 crores incurred in the Howrah Unit, machines worth Rs. 4.64 crore were imported from Italy in August, 1999 to strengthen the foundry unit. As per information available, these machines have been commissioned in October, 2000.

BSCL has not performed as envisaged in the rehabilitation scheme, howrah works in particular has been incurring heavy losses. These losses have led to depletion of working capital thereby resulting in delayed .execution of orders. Wages and salaries to both workers and supervisory staff reported could not be paid since April, 2001. The BIFR reviewed the performance of the Company in a hearing held on 23rd February, 2001 and directed it to prepare a modified package.

Financial assistance to municipalities under IDSMT Scheme

*16. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of municipalities which have been approved for financial assistance under Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme (IDSMT) during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith the amount of grant given to each municipality, State-wise; and

(b) whether the proposal from the Gujarat Government has been received by his Ministry for the year 2000-2001, for financial assistance under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 363 municipalities have been approved for financial assistance under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Town Scheme. The State-wise details for 1999-2000 and for